

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3113

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4344

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL MARR NATO

SUBJECT: US USE OF NATO III SATELLITE

REF: A. USNATO 4043

B. STATE 137534

1. AT JOINT C-E WORKING GROUP (JCEWG) MEETING ON AUGUST 12, 1975 CHAIRMAN (VAN DER WILLIGEN) GAVE BRIEF ORAL REPORT ON SUBJECT. HE SYNOPSISIZED RESULTS OF JULY 29 MEEING (REPORTED IN REF A) AND HE COMMENTED THAT THE US REQUESTED THE MEETING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION TO DEVELOP A PROPOSAL FOR THE SCCPG/SCWG TO CONSIDER AT ITS SEPTEMBER 1975 MEETING (REF B APPLIES).

2. THE NICSMA REP (LE HARDY) MADE A STATEMENT ARGUING THAT THE SCCPG/SCWG HAS NO ROLE TO PLAY. THE NICSMA POSITION EMBRACES THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE SCWG CONCERN BEGIN POST-NATO III.

B. NICSMA, REPORTING ONLY TO THE NJCEC, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE NATO III PROGRAM.

C. NATO III IS AN EXISTING, COMMON-FUNDED PROGRAM OF DIRECT INTEREST TO 14 NATIONS AND, THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE SCCPG/SCWG, WITH ITS RESTRICTED MEMBERSHIP, TO BECOME INVOLVED.

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3. THE JCEWG (ALSO SCCPG/SCWG) CHAIRMAN COUNTERED THE NICSMA ARGUMENT, CITING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SCWG AS GIVING THAT GROUP AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO SEEK RATIONALIZATION OF SATELLITE ASSETS OF THE ALLIANCE AND ITS MEMBERS. HE

COMMENTED THAT, IN ANY EVENT, IT IS THE US WHO WILL MAKE A PROPOSAL, NOT NICSMA, AND THE US WILL CHOOSE THE FORUM IN WHICH IT MAKES THE PROPOSAL. THE US REP (GENTRY) STATED THAT HE WOULD INFORM HIS AUTHORITIES OF THE NICSMA VIEW, ALTHOUGH ACCORDING TO INFORMATION HE HAS, THE US INTENDS TO MAKE ITS PROPOSAL AT THE SCWG MEETING IN SEPTEMBER SO THAT BODY CAN ADVISE THE NJCEC AT THE LATTER'S OCTOBER 1975 MEETING.

4. THE SCOPE OF THE PRESENT US REQUEST, COMPARED TO THE BROADER EARLIER REQUEST, MAY WELL BE HANDLED BILATERALLY BETWEEN THE US AND NICSMA WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE SCWG. WE RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT THE US PROPOSAL GO THROUGH THE SCWG. THIS "FIRST CASE" OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THAT GROUP TO EXERCISE ITSELF AND IS A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSION OF THE SATCOM SITUATION AND POTENTIAL FOR RATIONALIZATION IN THE MID-TO-LATE 1980S.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. ADVISE WHETHER US WILL MAKE PROPOSAL FOR USE OF NATO III THROUGH SCWG.

STREATOR

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